

USFS,

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

The project will bring huge economic benefits to the rural communities surrounding the project site. Midas Gold will directly employ 400-500 employees during construction and operations. Payroll is expected to range from \$48 million to \$51 million during operations. These numbers do not even capture the indirect jobs I am confident nearby towns will see from the Stibnite Gold Project. Under Alternative 2 of the project, Midas Gold will also help to improve water quality at and surrounding the site. Water treatment during operations will lower levels of arsenic and antimony in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). Additionally, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess legacy tailings left behind from past miners, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9).

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, following alternative 2.

Respectfully,

Name: William Patrick Willis